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*Hesperia*, of the Anchor Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 242 steerage passengers and 50 pieces of large and 196 pieces of small baggage. The steerage lists of this ship showed that no emigrants had embarked from the district of Salerno, where smallpox prevails.

Respectfully,

VICTOR G. HEISER,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Smallpox at Angri.*

NAPLES, ITALY, *January 2, 1900.*

SIR: In accordance with your instructions of the 30th ultimo, directing me to investigate the rumors about plague at Salerno, Italy, I have the honor to submit the following report:

I proceeded at once to Salerno, and at that place I was informed that the disease which had caused so much excitement was at a small village named Angri. It was reported at Salerno that the first person to die of it was a man who came from Alexandria, Egypt. The popular opinion being that the disease was plague, and that the authorities were withholding the diagnosis.

On my arrival at Angri, I learned that the disease in question was smallpox. Four persons had been attacked, all of whom died.

There is not much doubt that the disease was carried to Angri by a shoemaker who had fled from Marseilles, France, in order to avoid the epidemic which is raging there at present. The authorities at Angri claim to have taken all the necessary precautions. Emigrants coming from that district will be subjected to rigid inspection and their baggage disinfected before being permitted to embark for the United States.

Respectfully,

VICTOR G. HEISER,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

JAPAN.

*Plague in Osaka and Kobe—Pneumonic type probably exists.*

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *December 20, 1899.*

SIR: Since my report of December 12, which brought the record of plague in Japan down to the 9th instant, the following cases have occurred in which the diagnosis is clear: One, a resident of Osaka, died on the 15th, and, on the same day a case was detected at the Osaka railway station in a party of sixty emigrants on their way to Hawaii via Yokohama. All these intending passengers were immediately taken to a disinfecting depot for treatment, and, as under the terms of a circular issued by me on the 22d, they must, after arrival at Yokohama, remain under observation for fifteen days, and submit to thorough disinfection, I think that when they leave here they will be fairly safe. On the 16th a fatal case was reported at Kobe in a district outside of the original epidemic center. On the 17th a case at Osaka proved mortal in a few hours, and, a second fatal case occurred there on the same day. On the 17th and 18th 2 cases died of plague in Kobe.

In addition to the above-noted cases in which the diagnosis was undoubted, suspicious cases have been reported from Okayama, the ken immediately adjoining that of Hiogo on the south; also on board

a local trading steamer in one of the ports of Miye Ken, a little north of Osaka; and one in Shidzuoka Ken about half way between Yokohama and Kobe.

No second case has been returned from Nagasaki where one was said to have been met with on the 9th, as already reported to you.

The most capable experts who have been investigating the epidemic in and about Kobe seem convinced that the infection has been present much longer than was at first supposed. In the low district of Kobe, where the disease was earliest detected, there had occurred, nominally from acute pneumonitis, 270 deaths during the months of September and October, and, during the same period and in the same locality, 230 deaths were ascribed to acute meningitis. Beriberi also, which, in its acute form, is marked by heart failure and dyspnoea, figures under the same circumstances as responsible for 266 deaths. Professors Kitasato and Ogata are inclined to suspect that most of these cases were of the pneumonic or other very acute form of plague, which, by the ignorant physicians in attendance on people of the class affected, might easily be mistaken for either of the diseases named.

It is certainly strange that this unusual mortality, especially that ascribed to acute pneumonitis, until within a few years practically unknown in Japan, and even now rare, should not have attracted the attention of the Kobe authorities.

The type of the cases which have been diagnosed as plague by competent men, appears to be most malignant. The patients, in many instances, die before there is time for lymphatic lesions to become evident, and the fatal event often occurs within a few hours of the first attack. I have not, as yet, been able to learn of the recovery of a single well marked case.

While I think that there is, probably, little reason to fear any wide development of the epidemic during the winter months, the persistency with which single cases are occurring farther and farther from the original focus of disease, affords ground for grave uneasiness as to what the spring may bring us.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.,*  
*Sanitary Inspector, Yokohama.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

*Plague in Manila.*

[Cablegram.]

MANILA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, *January 16, 1900.*

Arrived Friday. Five cases of plague now present in Manila.

PERRY, *Passed Assistant Surgeon.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

SPAIN.

*Reports from Barcelona.*

BARCELONA, SPAIN, *December 30, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit abstract of bills of health issued at this port, and to make the report of the transactions at this place for the week ended December 30, 1899.